

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of claims:**

1-22. (Canceled).

23. (Currently Amended) A method of improving acceptance and osseous integration of a bone implant in a subject, which method comprises administering to the subject in need of such improvement a therapeutically effective amount of an agent comprising creatine pyruvate or an analogue thereof, to improve acceptance and osseous integration of a said bone implant in said subject.

24. (Currently Amended) A method for accelerating healing in a subject having a defect in bone ~~or cartilage~~ tissue caused by trauma or surgery, which method comprises administering to the subject in need thereof a therapeutically effective amount of an agent comprising creatine pyruvate or an analogue thereof.

25-30. (Canceled).

31. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 23, wherein the subject is an animal.

32. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 23, wherein the subject is a human.

33. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 32, wherein the agent is administered in an amount of 1.4 to 285 mg per day.

34. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 24, wherein the subject is an animal.

35. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 24, wherein the subject is a human.

36. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 35, wherein the agent is administered in an amount of 1.4 to 285 mg per day.

37. (Currently Amended) A method for accelerating healing in a subject having a defect in bone ~~or cartilage~~ tissue caused by trauma or surgery, which method comprises

administering to the subject in need thereof a therapeutically effective amount of a composition comprising (1) an agent comprising creatine pyruvate or an analogue thereof, and (2) a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

38. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 37, wherein the composition is in a sustained release formulation.

39. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 37, wherein the subject is an animal.

40. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 37, wherein the subject is a human.

41. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 40, wherein the agent is administered in an amount of 1.4 to 285 mg per day.